AIDS patients missing from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi

2865. *SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA*: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently 12 positive cases of AIDS have been detected at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi :

(b) whether it is also a fact that all these patients are not traceable for further treatment :

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take the help of investigating agencies to trace the AIDS patients : and

(d) what other remedial action Government are contemplating to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) to (d) Yes, as per information received from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, 11 cases of seropositive, HIV infection, have been detected. One case (other than these eleven) who is doubtful Elisa positive was not tested or western blot. For finding the HIV positivity among the patients, firstly their blood is tested by ELISA test and if found positive, then confirmatory test is carried out by western blot test. These 11 cases out of 12 were positive for Elisa as well as western blot test. These 11 persons can infect other persons, but none of them was full blown AIDS case.

All these 11 patients are not traceable as these tests were done as a part of survey and samples of blood were drawn from the patients in STD clinics, where addresses were not kept.

The names of these patients have been taken in the STD Register and given to various blood banks in case they come to the blood banks, they can be identified for follow up action.

Hike in prices of drugs

2866. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug manufacturing companies in the country have threatened to close down their industry over the question of money they owe to *Government*;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the steep hike in prices of drugs which has made drugs beyond the reach of common man : and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to make available drugs to common man at reasonable rates ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reports of increase in prices of certain Medicines have been received.

(d) It is the endeavour of the Govt. to make available quality medicines at fair & reasonable prices. Prices of a number of medicines have been reduced recently so as to ensure their availability to the common man at reasonable prices.